

# 2008 Public School Choice Conference



***Public School Choice:  
An Option for Everyone***

**September 30–October 1, 2008**

**Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
Columbia, South Carolina**



South Carolina  
Department of Education

Together, we can.

# ***Public School Choice In South Carolina***

## ***Single-Gender Programs: 198***

***50 Percent of Single-Gender Programs in the US are located in SC***

## ***Alternative Schools: 94***

***Star Academy of Pickens County awarded  
2008 Crystal Star Program Award of Excellence***

## ***Montessori Schools: 35***

***3,200 students pre-K-Gr. 8 Learning the "Montessori Way"***

## ***Middle College/Early College Schools: 8***

***3,500+ college credits earned by MC/EC students in 2007-08***

## ***Charter Schools: 36***

***The SC Public Charter School District Celebrates its  
First Year of Operation***

## ***Magnet Schools: 77***

***Forest Lake Elementary School  
Named National Magnet School of Distinction***

***...And Still Growing!***



South Carolina  
Department of Education

Together, we can.

September 30, 2008

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the second annual Public School Choice conference. This gathering is rapidly becoming South Carolina's premiere training opportunity for educators with existing choice programs and those interested in expanding curriculum options for students and their families. Its growth is a testament to the fact that public school choice is an idea whose time has come.

This year's meeting has been planned around the theme "Public School Choice: An Option for Everyone." The agenda—highlighted by on-site tours of exemplary programs—offers an extensive array of workshops, including several by national experts.

Increasing public school choice is an integral component of the South Carolina Department of Education's plan to create schools that are second to none. We are also focusing on accelerating innovation, elevating and reinvigorating the teaching profession, refining accountability for maximum results with minimum testing, and providing fair and equitable funding for schools. Together, these efforts are helping us to ensure a bright future for all of our students, no matter where they live.

The Office of Public School Choice stands ready to assist you in exploring, designing, developing, implementing, and assessing public school choice options. I encourage you to consult with them on issues surrounding single-gender initiatives, middle college/early college high schools, Montessori programs, alternative schools, charter schools, magnet schools, arts integration, and virtual schools.

Thank you for being here and for all that you do every day. You have my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jim Rex  
State Superintendent of Education



## Conference Schedule

### Tuesday, September 30, 2008

<b>Registration</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</b>	
<b>General Session</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Ballroom A</b>

#### Welcome

Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education

#### Introduction of Speaker

Don Lawrimore, Director, Office of Public School Choice

#### Keynote Speaker

*Navigating Change: The Key to Implementing School Choice*

Dr. Karen Dyer, Director, Education and Non-Profit Sector Group  
Center for Creative Leadership

<b>Lunch</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Ballroom A</b>
<b>Onsite Visits</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Main Entrance</b>

*Only 25 participants per Public School Choice site.*

#### Middle College/Charter School (High)

**Bus 1**

#### Montessori (Elementary)

#### Alternative School (Middle/High)

*Joel Medley, Facilitator*

#### Montessori (Elementary)

**Bus 2**

#### Single-Gender/Arts Integration (Middle)

*David Chadwell, & Dr. Ginny Riga, Facilitators*

#### Alternative School (High School)

**Bus 3**

#### Charter School (Elementary)

*Aveene Coleman, Facilitator*

#### Single-Gender Initiatives (Middle)

**Bus 4**

#### Magnet Program (High)

#### Magnet Program (Elementary)

*Julie Anna Hartwell & Marriah Schwallier, Facilitators*

<b>Break</b>	<b>2:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Networking Session</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Ballroom A</b>

*Q&A Session with Program Education Associates, Visit Vendors, Learn from Veteran Choice Principals, and Chat with the Superintendent*



## Conference Schedule

### Wednesday, October 1, 2008

<b>Registration</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.</b>	
<b>General Session</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Ballroom A</b>

#### Welcome

Don Lawrimore, Director, Office of Public School Choice

#### Public School Choice in South Carolina

Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education

#### Keynote Speaker

*Motivation Matters: Public School Choice Options that Address Student Strengths*

Kathleen Harris, Board President, Southeast Coalition of Essential Schools Center

<b>Break and Vendors</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.</b>	
<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Meeting Rooms</b>

SC Public Charter School District (E/M/H)	Montessori (E)
Middle College/Early College (H)	National School Choice Options (E/M/H)
CCSD School Choice Plan (E/M/H)	Charter School (H)
Single-Gender (E)	Alternative School (M/H)

<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Ballroom A</b>
<b><i>Voices of Choice Panel Presentation</i></b>		

Dr. Steve Hefner, Moderator	Emily Padget, Magnet Student
Marshall Prince, Montessori Parent	Robyn Welborn, Charter Co-Administrator
Recardo Jackson, Middle College Student	Whitney Taylor, Montessori Student

<b>Break</b>	<b>1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Meeting Rooms</b>

SC Public Charter School District (E/M/H)	Single-Gender Initiatives (M)
Evening High School (H)	Partial Language Immersion (E)
Middle/Early College Advisory Committee	Securing Grant Funding (E/M/H)
Montessori (E)	National School Choice Options (E/M/H)

<b>Break</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.–2:40 p.m.</b>	
<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>	<b>2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.</b>	<b>Meeting Rooms</b>

Montessori (E)	Arts Integration (M)
Magnet School (H)	Virtual School Program (H)
Alternative School (M/H)	Academy of Engineering (H)
Grant Funding (E/M/H)	

<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>3:40 p.m.–4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lexington A</b>
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**\*Credit Renewal Forms will be distributed in the Lobby after the last session.**





## Public School Choice Keynote Speakers



**DR. KAREN DYER** is the Group Director of the Education and Non-Profit Sector for the Center for Creative Leadership. In this role she works primarily with superintendents, principals, and others occupying leadership positions in education and non-profit settings in accessing CCL's portfolio of programs, products, and services. Karen is also a facilitator for CCL's African American program, Women's Leadership, and other custom-designed programs.

Prior to this position she was the Executive Director of the Chicago Academy for School Leadership, responsible for providing rigorous results-based professional development for Chicago Public School principals and administrators. Previous to this, Dr. Dyer served as the Executive Director of the Bay Area and North Bay

School Leadership Centers, both part of the California School Leadership Academy.

Dr. Dyer has been a principal, Title One program manager, reading/language arts specialist, teacher of regular and gifted education at both elementary and middle grades, and an adjunct professor at California State University, Hayward and Nova University. She has made presentations for the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), National Staff Development Council (NSDC), the National Association for Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). She has done consultation work with school districts throughout the United States and in Singapore and India.

Dr. Dyer is the co-author of the book, *The Intuitive Principal*. She is the author of several articles and numerous modules on instructional leadership. She is also a featured expert on ASCD's video series, *The Principal* and *Instructional Leadership Guide, Volume 3*. She is a member of several boards, including NSDC's Board of Trustees where she serves as president.

Karen holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master's of Education degree from Holy Names College in Oakland, California, and a Doctorate in Education Administration from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California.



**KATHLEEN HARRIS** has over 30 years of experience as an educator. The last 14 years have been devoted to developing practices that embed high rigor standards in authentic, personalized learning activities. Kathleen is the President of the Board for the Southeast Coalition of Essential Schools Center at Nova Southeastern University, Tampa.

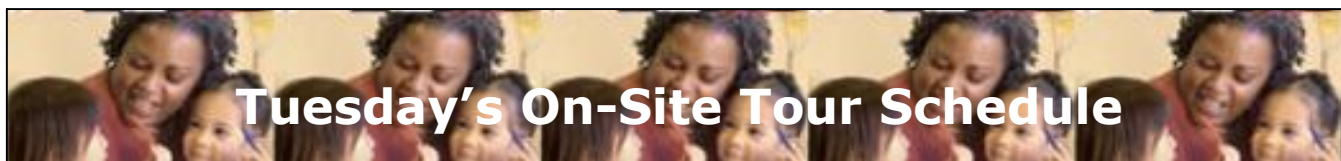
Much of her work focuses on teaching standards with relevancy and a process for designing standards-based integrated curriculum that includes identifying and tapping the motivation preferences of learners. Differentiating instruction by addressing motivation is her specialty, but she has provided services on all aspects of establishing smaller learning communities in high schools. She is an evaluator and professional development provider for the National Career

Academy Coalition. While working with the School Restructuring Support program at CIHS, Sonoma State University, Kathleen worked in 42 of the US states, and Canada, providing services for educators in K-12 schools.

Having this unique breadth of exposure allows Kathleen to bring the total picture of comprehensive school reform to her work. As a strong advocate of Smaller Learning Communities and professional collaborative structures, Mrs. Harris is part of the Small Schools Workshop team. She was the lead trainer for the "Making Connection" Project, a four-year education and industry partnership in Michigan, serving over 500 schools. Susan Drake and Rebecca Burns highlighted this work in Meeting Standards through Integrated Curriculum, ASCD, 2004, Chapter 8.

A dynamic speaker and motivating facilitator, she has presented at hundreds of education conferences and is known for her success with even resistant groups. Kathleen is currently an external coach for implementing the Smaller Learning Communities federal grant in four school districts.

In an environment with growing public school options, research is available that suggests such programs can improve attendance, achievement, and school completion rates. This presentation will make a case for interest-based programs and examine several types of successful public school choice options.



**September 30, 2008**

<b>Session Description</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>Middle College/Charter School (High)</b> <b>Montessori Education (Elementary)</b> <b>Alternative School (Elementary/Middle)</b>	<b>Bus 1</b>

**Richland One Middle College** is an innovative choice model for high school students. Students complete required high school core curriculum courses on the campus of Midlands Technical College and accumulate college credits that can be applied towards an associate's degree. Every student is issued a laptop upon enrollment and E-textbooks are routinely used during the school day, which begins at 12:15 p.m. Visit this site to see the middle college model in action and learn more about the laptop program, college/school partnership, Success Camp, and student achievement data. Audrey Breland is the school's Dean.

**Brockman Elementary** is a Pre-K-5 Montessori school in Richland District One that opened in 2000. The program has an enrollment of approximately 300 students in its 14 Montessori classrooms. Students are grouped in the following multiage classes: 3K-5K, grades 1-3, and grades 4-5. Visit this campus to see the Montessori model in action and learn more about curriculum resources and the school's designation as an Arts in Basic Curriculum school. Lynn Robertson is the principal.

**Olympia Learning Center** is a full-service learning facility that offers meaningful educational opportunities for students in grades four through twelve. Students who attend the Olympia Learning Center are students of "Choice" who prefer a non-traditional, innovative, and personal school setting. Visit this campus to see the STAR Academy program. Nathan White is the principal.

<b>Montessori Education (Elementary)</b> <b>Single-Gender/Arts Integration (Middle)</b>	<b>Bus 2</b>
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**Logan Elementary School** is a "school-within-a-school" Montessori model which began in 2004 with two primary classes (3K-5K). Each year, as students progressed, the program expanded. The program now has five classrooms and predominately serves students on free and reduced lunch. Two classrooms have students in grades 1-3, and the school's first upper elementary class of fourth graders opened this year. With the addition of a fifth-grade class next year, approximately 120 students will be learning "The Montessori Way." The school is also an Arts in Basic Curriculum site (ABC School). Visit this site to see the Montessori model in action. Richard Moore is the principal.

**Hand Middle School** offers several programs to meet the needs of their students. Hand is in their second year offering single-gender classes. They began the program in August 2007 with their sixth grade, and this year they have expanded the program into seventh grade. Students in single-gender classes are able to participate in the other programs offered at Hand. Visit this site and see single-gender core academic classes in session. Marissa Vickers is the principal.



# Tuesday's On-Site Tour Schedule

**September 30, 2008**

Session Description	Transportation
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**Alternative School (High)**  
**Charter School (Elementary)**

**Bus 3**

**Blythewood Academy** uses an innovative curriculum that targets both academic and affective skills that are necessary for student success as an independent learner. Visit this site to see an award winning alternative school in action and learn more about the school's program of individually prescribed short-term instruction and counseling that allows students to transfer back into a regular school setting. Cleveland Smith, 2007 SC Alternative School Administrator of the Year, is the school's principal.

**Carolina School of Inquiry** is a K-5 charter school that teaches a diverse population of children in an atmosphere of kindness that encourages active inquiry, fosters individual growth, and promotes respect for self, others, and the world in which they live. The school uses a multiage classroom with an inquiry-based curriculum to maximize every student's potential. Visit this campus and see this exciting charter school in action. Victoria Dixon-Mokeba is the principal.

**Magnet Program (High)**  
**Single-Gender Initiatives (Middle)**  
**Magnet Program (Elementary)**

**Bus 4**

**Richland Northeast High School** currently offers 5 magnet programs on its campus. The Center for Accelerated Preparation is a program for over-age middle school students, CavPlex is a convergence media program, and Horizon is an interdisciplinary approach to learning. InfoLINK prepares students for the 21st century through a 1 to 1 computer access that enhances instructional delivery, and the Palmetto Center for the Arts is the district's only fine arts magnet. Visit this site and see these 5 magnet programs in operation. Ralph Schmidt is the school's principal.

**Dent Middle School** offers several magnet programs: gifted-talented, media enrichment, and single-gender. The TWO Academies is in its fifth year as a single-gender magnet program for grades 6-8. Highlights of the program are core academics in single-gender groupings, single-gender advisory program for sixth graders, writing across the curriculum, and service-learning across grade levels. Visit this site and see each of these components in full operation. Randall Gary is the principal, Nancy Ankney is the lead teacher for girls, and Kyle Meetze is the lead teacher for boys.

**Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School** serves a highly diverse population, and they have adopted the Arts Integrated model. Through this model, faculty members integrate the ARTS into a standards-driven curriculum to produce well-rounded and dedicated learners. Shirley Watson is the principal.





# Wednesday's Concurrent Sessions

**October 1, 2008**

Time	Session Description	Room
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**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. SC Public Charter School District (E/M/H) Lexington B**

**Presenter:** Dr. Tim Daniels, Superintendent, SC Public Charter School District

This session will answer questions about the mission and structure of the new SC Public Charter School District, as well as the schools it serves. Discussions addressing the national charter school movement and South Carolina's trajectory will also be discussed. Time for questions and answers will be provided at the end.

**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Middle College/Charter School (H) Carolina A**

**Presenter:** Fred Crawford, Principal

Greenville Tech Charter High School, Greenville County School District

Greenville Technical Charter High School (GTCHS) is a public charter school located on the campus of Greenville Technical College and offers a teaching/learning paradigm based on Mastery Learning. Students have the opportunity to take dual credit classes at Greenville Technical College, and many graduate from high school classified as college sophomores. Several students have completed requirements for an Associate Degree while still enrolled in high school. GTCHS is a member of the Middle College National Consortium, receives support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and was recognized by the US Department of Education as one of the top 15 charter schools in the nation.

**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. School Choice in Charleston County Lexington A**

**Presenters:** Elliott Smalley, Executive Director, Office of Communications; Dr. Brenda Nelson, Director of Community Outreach; Dirk Bedford, Principal, Mitchell Elementary; Charleston County School District; and Julie Hussey, Parent, Community Leader

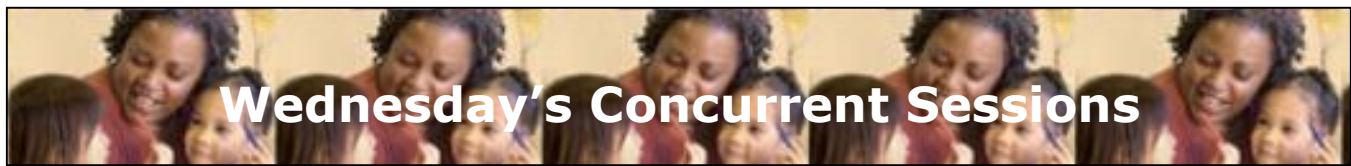
The research is clear. School districts across the country offering choices have greater parent involvement, more engaged learners, and a higher quality of education. Many Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools already offer nontraditional choices, including Montessori, single-gender, magnet, and charter programs. Due to the success and high demand of these programs, CCSD is working to expand these options throughout the county. In the fall of 2007, the CCSD School Board and Superintendent Dr. Nancy J. McGinley began a bold school choice initiative designed to increase options for parents and reform district schools like never before. Each CCSD school was given the opportunity to apply for a grant and create a "Neighborhood Planning Team" (NPT) comprised of school, community, and business representatives. In April 2008, monetary grants were awarded to eleven NPTs to begin this process. Each NPT is now using community feedback and the grant money to design a partial magnet focus at an existing school. This session will detail the CCSD Choice plan and provide evidence of its success.

**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Single-Gender Initiatives (E) Richland C**

**Presenters:** Vaughan Overman, Principal, and Melodie White, Instructional Coach

Taylor's Elementary School, Greenville County School District

Wondering if single-gender is a good fit for your school? "Puzzled" about how to get started? Learn firsthand how Taylor's Elementary School "connected" the essential pieces to begin a single-gender initiative in first through fifth grades. The process resulted in an overwhelming response from teachers, students, parents, and the community. Session "pieces to the puzzle" will include analyzing reasons to offer single-gender classes, assessing teacher commitment, promoting parent buy-in, and identifying student selection for first through fifth grade.



# Wednesday's Concurrent Sessions

**October 1, 2008**

Time	Session Description	Room
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**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**Montessori (E)**

**Hall of Fame**

**Presenter:** Dr. Ginny Riga, SCDE

Beginning a Montessori program in a public school is an exciting journey. This presentation will cover the step-by-step procedures to follow with details on gaining program support, advertising, parent and student recruitment, lottery selection, teacher selection and training, program funding options, ordering equipment, pitfalls to avoid, and more!

**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**National Choice Options (E/M/H)**

**Congaree A**

**Presenter:** Kathleen Harris, Board President  
Southeast Coalition of Essential Schools Center, Tampa, Florida

A variety of school choice options will be reviewed and the pro and cons discussed. Join us to explore how expansion of school choice options can improve educational services and student performance.

**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**Charter School (H)**

**Congaree B**

**Presenter:** Robert Bohnstengel, Principal  
James Island Charter High School, Charleston County School District

James Island High school applied for converted charter school status in 2003. Prior to this date, the school had a long, strong history of academic and extra-curricular excellence. The school enjoyed healthy support from the parent, business, and community sectors. The SIC and faculty were active in the school operations. With so many positive factors, why did the faculty and parents take on the daunting task of converting to a charter school? Come listen as members of the JICHS staff discuss the many hurdles and constraints they faced and the final outcome and benefits of charter conversion.

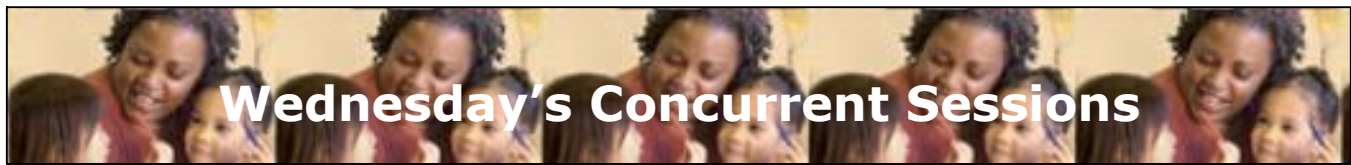
**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**Alternative School (M/H)**

**Carolina B**

**Presenter:** Tim Mullis, Principal  
John T. Simpson Alternative Center for Education, School District of Pickens County

STAR Academy is a technology-delivered and managed program of studies designed to enable students to recover academically in an alternative learning environment. STAR Academy goals include providing students with seven Carnegie units; improving study skills; instilling character strengths; and offering career-related direction for a successful pathway to high school graduation. STAR students are rising eighth-grade students who are one or more years behind academically and, if successful, will become sophomores in their home high schools the following school year. The administrator will share information about student selections, daily schedules, student improvements, and daily challenges faced by the staff.



**October 1, 2008**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Description</b>	<b>Room</b>
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**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.      SC Public Charter School District (E/M/H)      Lexington B**

**Presenter:** Dr. Tim Daniels, Superintendent, SC Public Charter School District

This session will answer questions about the mission and structure of the new SC Public Charter School District, as well as the schools it serves. Discussions addressing the national charter school movement and South Carolina's trajectory will also be discussed. Time for questions and answers will be provided at the end.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.      Evening High School (H)      Congaree B**

**Presenters:** Kerry L. Abel, Richland One Coordinator, Area of Dropout Prevention and Partnerships; Debra Edwards, Teacher, Richland One Evening High School  
Richland County School District One

The Richland One Evening High School is the first program designed by the Office of Dropout Prevention and Partnerships to assist in reducing the district's dropout rate and increase its graduation rate. The Evening High School is designed to serve students interested in obtaining a high school diploma but, due to life circumstances, are unable to attend school during the day. The school has a flexible schedule that operates year-round, Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. The operational timeframe enables students to hold a job, meet family obligations, and upon meeting the requirements, graduate from high school. This presentation will highlight the purpose for creating the school, the school's goals and objectives, and program implementation and replication strategies.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.      Single-Gender Initiatives (M)      Lexington A**

**Presenters:** Benjamin Bragg, Principal; John Miller, Stephanie Lewis, and Barbara Heyward, Teachers; St Andrews Middle School, Charleston County School District

Our school is completely gender-based and has been for a year and a half. This school year we will have two separate academies within our school (Female and Male Leadership Academies). Teachers are provided professional development teaching strategies to male and female brain research. Classrooms are set up to accommodate student needs. We implemented this program mid year and have had tremendous results with state assessments, discipline, and parent and community involvement. Attend this session and learn more about our implementation strategies.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.      Middle College/Early College  
Advisory Committee Meeting      Carolina A**

**Facilitator:** Julie Anna Hartwell, SCDE



# Wednesday's Concurrent Sessions

**October 1, 2008**

Time	Session Description	Room
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**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Montessori Education (E)**

**Hall of Fame**

**Presenters:** Kena Cox, Laurens School District #55; Sheleea Leonard, Rock Hill School District Three of York County; Ansley Brown and Erica Rice, Richland County School District One

Is your district/school facing the common challenges of lack of school readiness? Grade retention? Lack of motivation? Discipline issues? Do these challenges exist despite past efforts/new programs to remedy pieces of the "Puzzle of Student Failure"? Montessori is a holistic approach with a proven high-rate of student success. Learn about the achievement of Montessori students, academically and socially, straight from those who have seen it first-hand—who else but experienced South Carolina Montessori public school teachers? Data on Montessori program outcomes from districts other states will also be shared.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Partial Language Immersion Program (E)**

**Richland C**

**Presenters:** Joyce Carter, Lexington One Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services; Dawn Samples, Lexington One District World Languages Lead Teacher

Lexington County School District One's Partial Immersion Program is a unique public school choice option that integrates foreign language instruction into the core curriculum. Research shows that learning a second language at an early age has a positive effect on intellectual growth. This session will review the process Lexington School District One used to implement Spanish and French partial immersion programs into three school sites in the district. Participants will also have the opportunity to experience a partial immersion teaching activity.

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**National Choice Options (E/M/H)**

**Congaree A**

**Presenter:** Kathleen Harris, Board President  
Southeast Coalition of Essential Schools Center, Tampa, Florida

A variety of school choice options will be reviewed and the pro and cons discussed. Joins us to explore how expansion of school choice options can improve educational services and student performance.

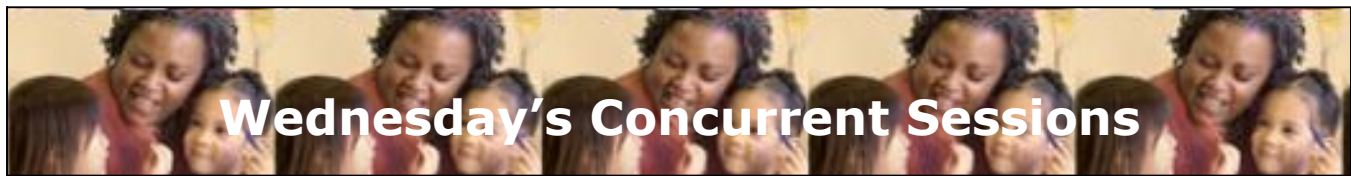
**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Securing Grant Funding (E/M/H)**

**Carolina B**

**Presenter:** Dr. Gail Widner, SCDE

Securing funding to support choice programs, options, and structures requires creative approaches, research, and teamwork. This session reviews grant resources, fundamentals of grant proposals, and strategies to improve the writing in a proposal. Attendees will be able to locate possible grants, identify essential components of writing a grant proposal, and become more confident about strategies in writing winning proposals.



**October 1, 2008**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Description</b>	<b>Room</b>
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**2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.**

**Montessori Education (E)**

**Hall of Fame**

**Presenter:** Kim Bagwell, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Elementary Education; Malinda Patterson, Principal, Blacksburg Primary School; Clay Fowler, Principal, Limestone-Central Elementary; Laura Camp, District Early Childhood Curriculum Facilitator, Cherokee County School District

Cherokee County is a great example of a district that has built and sustained a Montessori primary-level program since August 2002. Montessori is offered in 5 of its 12 elementary schools with very positive support from all stakeholders. This year they are expanding their program into the lower elementary level. Listen to key leaders of this program and learn about program start-up, funding, teacher training, parent involvement, and results for students and teachers.

**2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.**

**Arts Integration (M)**

**Carolina A**

**Presenters:** Christine Fisher, ABC Project Executive Director; Carol Baker, Richland One Arts Integration Consultant; Marissa Vickers, Hand Middle School, Richland County School District One.

Since 1987, South Carolina has been a national leader in the research and implementation of comprehensive, standards-based arts and arts integrated learning. Drawing on the research and theories of specialists including Howard Gardner, Heidi Hayes Jacobs, and Maxine Greene, schools across the state have discovered both the academic and social benefits of infusing the arts into their core curriculum. Richland County School District One's Office of Visual and Performing Arts, Hand Middle School, and South Carolina's Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project have joined together to share their experiences using this innovative method of school reform. The session will include open discussion surrounding authentic learning, assessment, parent involvement, student discipline, multiple learning styles, student engagement, and teacher satisfaction.

**2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.**

**Alternative School (M/H)**

**Lexington B**

**Presenter:** Joyce Dearing, Director, Givhans Alternative Program, Dorchester County School District Two

Our alternative program serves students in grades 6–12 who are placed with us due to disciplinary infractions in lieu of expulsion. We also offer choice placement for students who are academically behind, who need a smaller and more structured environment, and/or have different learning styles and modalities of learning. Our program utilizes positive intervention techniques to get students "back on track." We also offer a vocational education component.

**2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.**

**Securing Grant Funding (E/M/H)**

**Carolina B**

**Presenters:** Dr. Gail Widner, SCDE

Securing funding to support choice programs, options, and structures requires creative approaches, research, and teamwork. This session reviews grant resources, fundamentals of grant proposals, and strategies to improve the writing in a proposal. Attendees will be able to locate possible grants, identify essential components of writing a grant proposal, and become more confident about strategies to write winning proposals.





## Wednesday's Concurrent Sessions

**2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.**

**Magnet Program (E)**

**Richland C**

**Presenters:** Tami Richardson, G&T Coordinator; Kathy Hogan and Franklin Foster, Teachers, Harbison West Elementary School; School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties

In this session, we will explain how we developed and implemented a pilot elementary magnet program for academically gifted, second-grade students at Harbison West Elementary School. We will include information about the magnet planning and building process, the acquisition of community support, and how students are selected for the program. Finally, we will share an update on the current status of our program.

**2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.**

**Virtual School Program (H)**

**Congaree B**

**Presenters:** Tracy Sanders, Bradley Mitchell, Katie Kluttz, Deirdre Edwards, Randy Ewart, David Sease, Dr. Kim Neal, SCDE

National studies report that 40 percent of teens are interested in taking online courses before graduating from high school. The South Carolina Virtual School Program currently offers online core academic and elective courses to public, private, and home-schooled students in middle and high school grades (8–12) statewide. Program outcomes include decreasing the state dropout rate, improving student academic competency, expanding academic community for students and teachers, increasing human connections, improving student-teacher ratio, and addressing current teacher shortages. This presentation reviews the application and registration procedures for the South Carolina Virtual School Program from three different perspectives: student, guardian/parent, and guidance/sponsor.

**2:40 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.**

**Academy of Engineering (H)**

**Lexington A**

**Presenter:** Dr. Sean Alford, Principal; Mark Kirlough, CTE/PLTW Teacher, Robotics team Mentor; Sharonda Jacobs Math/PLTW Teacher, Robotics team mentor  
Columbia High School, Richland County School District One

Learn about South Carolina's first Academy of Engineering, beginning with the initial change to pre-engineering curriculum moving forward to the National Academy Foundation. Then hear about the year of planning and implementation. The story of raising expectations, college-level work, and student engagement will be discussed. The presenters will chronicle the past five years and look to the future of this exciting student-centered program.



## **Professional Development Offerings**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>October 21, 2008</b>     | <b>Creating a Single-Gender Program</b><br>Heyward Career and Technology<br>Columbia, SC   |
| <b>October 23, 2008</b>     | <b>Gender Matters</b><br>Alternative School Workshop for Teachers<br>Olympia Learning Center, Columbia, SC   |
| <b>October 24–25, 2008</b>  | <b>SC Montessori Alliance Conference</b><br><a href="http://www.scmontessori.org">www.scmontessori.org</a><br>Columbia, SC                                 |
| <b>November 13, 2008</b>    | <b>Differentiated Instruction—How to Reach and Teach All Learners</b><br>Alternative School Workshop for Teachers<br>Olympia Learning Center, Columbia, SC |
| <b>November 14–15, 2008</b> | <b>Middle College National Consortium Technical Assistance Conference</b><br>Houston, Texas  |
| <b>November 18, 2008</b>    | <b>A Gendered Classroom: Gender Differences &amp; Strategies</b><br>Heyward Career and Technology Center<br>Columbia, SC                                   |
| <b>December 2, 2008</b>     | <b>Dropout Prevention Leadership Summit</b><br>Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center<br>Columbia, SC   |
| <b>January 13, 2009</b>     | <b>Creating a Single-Gender Program</b><br>Heyward Career and Technology<br>Columbia, SC   |
| <b>January 16–18, 2009</b>  | <b>SC Alliance of Black School Educators Conference</b><br>Understanding Public School Choice in SC<br>Myrtle Beach, SC                                    |
| <b>February 10, 2009</b>    | <b>A Gendered Classroom: Gender Differences &amp; Strategies</b><br>Heyward Career and Technology Center<br>Columbia, SC                                   |
| <b>February 11, 2009</b>    | <b>Middle College/Early College Technical Assistance Workshop</b><br>1401 Senate Street, Room 201<br>Columbia, SC  |
| <b>February 20–22, 2009</b> | <b>Montessori Educational Programs International Conference</b><br><a href="http://www.mepiforum.org">www.mepiforum.org</a><br>Spartanburg, SC             |

# Professional Development Offerings

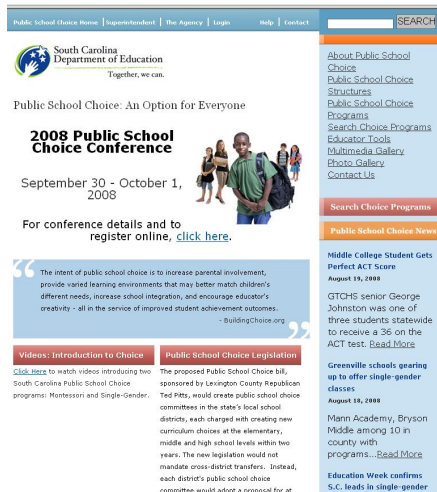
**March 28, 2009 3rd Annual Teacher-to-Teacher Conference**  
Polo Road Elementary School  
Columbia, South Carolina

**April 23, 2009 A Gendered Classroom: Gender Differences & Strategies**  
Heyward Career and Technology Center  
Columbia, SC

**May 5, 2009 Creating a Single-Gender Program**  
Heyward Career and Technology  
Columbia, SC

## **CYBER RESOURCES**

### **South Carolina Department of Education: Office of Public School Choice**



Visit [sceducationchoice.com](http://sceducationchoice.com) and learn more about

- \*Dr. Rex's vision for public school choice in SC
- \*Choice structures and programs in SC
- \*Public school choice sites in SC districts
- \*Videos explaining public school choice
- \*Professional development dates
- \*Public school choice in action photo gallery
- \*Links to state & national public school choice organizations
- \*Public school choice SEARCH engine

**Building Choice**  
[www.Buildingchoice.org](http://www.Buildingchoice.org)

**Middle College National Consortium**  
[www.mcnc.us](http://www.mcnc.us)

**National Association of Single-Sex Public Education**  
[www.singlesexschools.org](http://www.singlesexschools.org)

**South Carolina Public Charter School District**  
[www.sccharter.com](http://www.sccharter.com)

**South Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools**  
[www.scapcs.org](http://www.scapcs.org)

**United States Department of Education Charter School Program**  
[www.ed.gov/programs/charter/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/charter/index.html)

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## **Special Thanks To Our Conference Partners**

### **South Carolina ETV (SCETV)**

Donna Thompson, SCETV  
 Amanda LeeVan, PBS TeacherLine  
 Dianne Gregory, StreamlineSC and ITV  
 Debbie Jarrett, StreamlineSC  
 Brack Clemons, SCETV

### **South Carolina Virtual School**

Dee Appleby, Office of eLearning, South Carolina Department of Education  
 Tracy Sanders, South Carolina Department of Education

### **South Carolina Public Charter School Association**

Dr. David Church, Executive Director  
 Wes Smith, Director of Member Services

### **The Julianna Group**

Sharon Lerch

### **Edison Learning**

### **Montessori Training Programs**

Lander University Montessori Teacher Training Program  
 Florence School District One Training Program  
 Institute for Guided Studies  
 Montessori Teacher Training Institute

### **Montessori Outlet**

Jason Tao

### **SCDE Conference Facilitators**

Elizabeth Adams  
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Maria Boggs  
 Office of Federal and State Accountability

Ethel Johnson  
 Office of Academic Standards

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Karen Horne  
 Office of Community and Parent Services



## Conference Notes



## **Conference Notes**



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South Carolina  
Department of Education

Together, we can.

**South Carolina Department of Education**

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